Dear Mr. Bowley, 2/18/94

Ferrie did spend time in Banister's office. I do not know that meant he worked for Banister but perhaps he did from time to time or perhaps they shared politically extreme views. I doubt that Banister remained with any federal connections after he left the FBI. He was known to have had brain damage. I doubt he would have been trusted.

I have always believed that the real reason Ferrie left for that strange weekend as soon as he could after the Marcello court case, which Ferrie's work for Marcello's lawyers at least helped win for them, was because when he heard that Oswald was the accused, he feared being connected with that through Oswald, who he knew from the Civil Air Patrol although he, Ferrie, then was on inactive status. As I reported in Oswald In New Orleans, Ferrie had said publicly that something should happen to JFK.

From 1967, when I published Oswald in New Orleans and reported what an Italian newspaper had said about Shaw, there was always the question of his having an intelligence connection. The question was real, the proof nonexisting. Shaw's overt contact with the CIA's domestic contact division was normal and not in any sense improper. What would have been strange and abnormal would have been no such contact. Nothing clandestine in that kind of intelligence work.

None of those working in the released files has mentioned to me what you say about Shaw having "a 'Covert Security Clearance' on Project Q-Kenchant'" of which I do not remember hearing. I'll appreciate copies of that if you can provide it. That is quite different than contact with the overt domestic contact service. However, Garrison knew nothing about that and as I probably said earlier, most of what he said he had no basis for saying other than his own imagination. I do not know what any part of this means. As I now remember it Shaw's alleged intelligence connections included a Canadian, a Colonel Bloomfield. What I then knew is in Oswald in New Orleans. Garrison got that from that book. I know of nothing he added to it.

I have an expose of Posner and his book of which copies are to be available in April, if you want to tell your bookstores. Case Open will be published by Carroll & Graf/ Richard Gallen, 260 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10001.

The most responsible work on those newly-disclosed CIA files that I expect will be by Major John Newman, same publisher, date now unknown. I expect him to visit in the near future. I'll show him your letter then.

Garrison knew so little about Banister his account of going to Banister's office is ludicrous. He did not even know where it was! Some of his sources were not at all dependable, including some who did work for Banister. His book also described a nonexisting stairway to where Banister's office was not in any event. It was on the first floor. They did not even have pictures of that building until one of his detectives took some for me, with them retaining the negatives. Best wishes, Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg